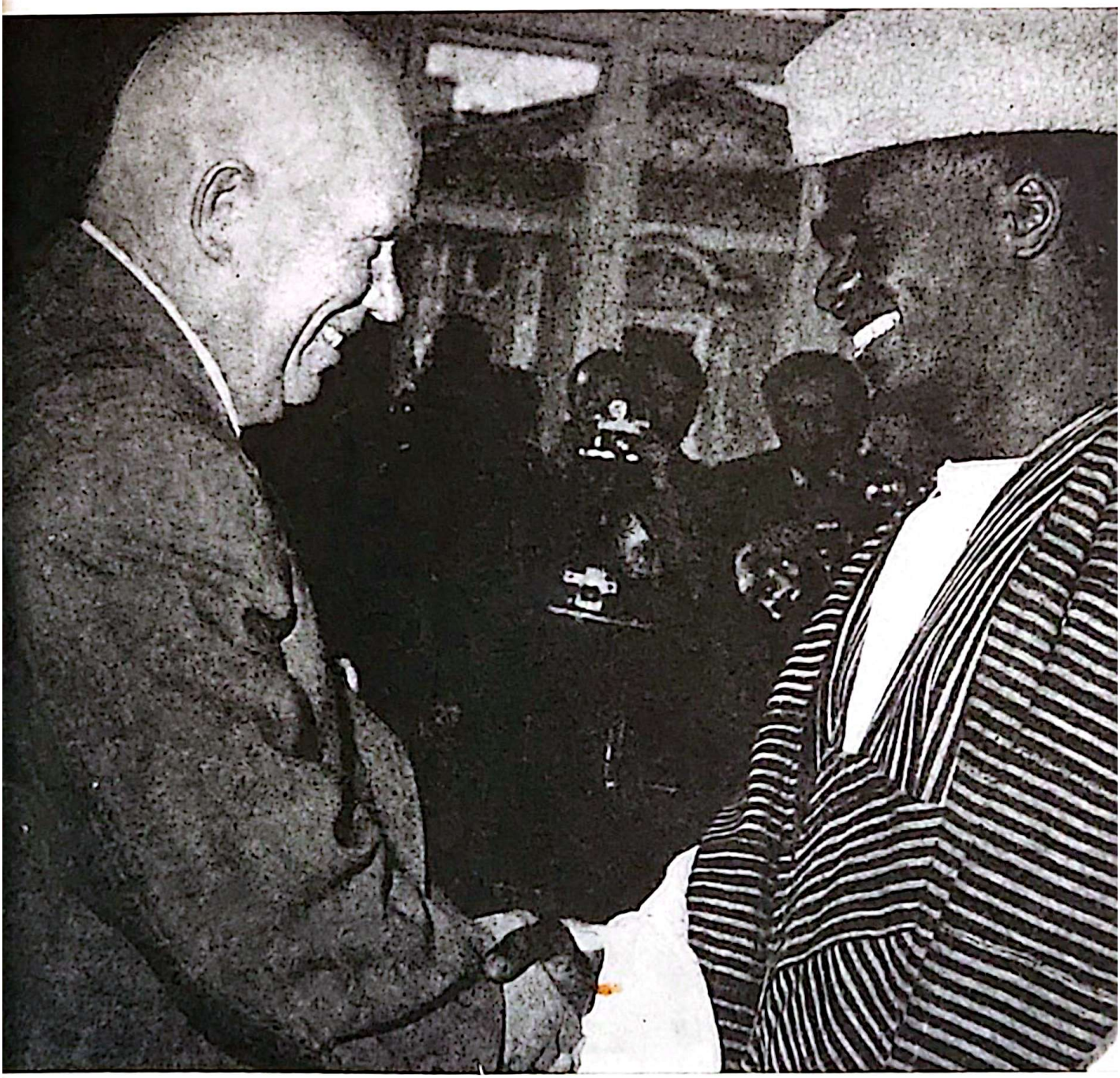
FRIEND AND ALLY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM



by V. Kudryavtsev

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On the cover: *N. S. Khrushchov with President Sekou Toure of Guinea*

Friend and Ally in the Struggle for Independence and Freedom

by

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"Information for a world in need of mutual understanding" – such is the motto of Novosti Press Agency (A.P.N.) who have prepared the material for this booklet in order to provide such information.

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A NEW ERA, A STRONG ALLY

THE peoples of the colonial and dependent countries have been struggling against imperialist domination for many long years. The struggle has been fierce and frequently bloody. Hundreds of thousands of the finest sons of the African, Asian and Latin American peoples have laid down their lives for the great goal of emancipation.

The history of Asia and Africa in the 19th and early 20th centuries is one of repeated rebellions against the arbitrary and violent rule of the imperialists, rebellions brutally crushed and drowned in the blood of the peoples.

Was it because these peoples lacked courage or leaders that they failed to throw off the stranglehold of imperialism and win their freedom at that time? No, they fought heroically and had many valiant leaders whose names will live forever in the memories of their grateful peoples.

But imperialism was still strong, and the socialist system had not yet appeared to which these peoples could turn for help in their struggles.

The shattering of the colonial empires only became possible when a mighty force appeared in the world, capable, first of resisting imperialism, and then of surpassing it in strength. That force was socialism. As the programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union says:

> "Imperialism suppressed the national independence and freedom of the majority of the peoples and put the fetters of brutal colonial slavery on them, but *the rise of socialism marks the advent of the era of emancipation of the oppressed peoples.*"

Today the national liberation movement has a reliable ally—the world socialist system. That has been a decisive factor in ensuring that one people after another have in rapid succession been able to win their political freedom in recent years. If the sun of colonialism is sinking below the horizon, that is because the sun of socialism has risen high in the sky.

Yet strange to say, the leaders of the Communist Party of China, who are posing as the most orthodox proponents of Marxism-Leninism, nevertheless deny that the socialist system has proved to be the mainstay of the national liberation movement, of its outstanding victories in recent years. These selfsame critics are doing

their utmost to break the alliance between the national liberation movement and world socialism. They are trying to set the socialist countries and the nations of Africa and Asia against each other.

They talk, for instance, of "poor" and "rich" countries—grouping under the latter both capitalist and socialist countries—and claim that the interests of these two groups are opposed; that the "poor" and the "rich" countries cannot be friends.

It need hardly be pointed out that the artificial, unscientific and indeed harmful lumping together of socialist and capitalist countries is absolutely contrary to Marxism. Rather does it smack of racialism and hidebound nationalism.

All this can do is weaken the national liberation movement and cause it irreparable harm.

It is easy to see why such "theories" are applauded by colonialists. They hardly differ at all from the rantings of the colonialists themselves. Listen, for instance, to the strange reasoning of Foreign Minister Nogueira, in the Portuguese dictator Salazar's cabinet, who said recently: "Blacks and Whites live by different legal and moral codes. They go their separate ways." Or take this statement by the rabid racialist Prime Minister Verwoerd of the Republic of South Africa: "It is madness to identify the interests of Africans and Europeans. Those interests have never met."

One could quote plenty of utterances like this. And what is the difference between these reactionary views and the "theory" which opposes the peoples of the socialist countries to the African and Asian peoples on the basis of nationality, and artificially divides the world into countries that are "poor" and those that are "rich"? In practice, there is no difference at all. Thus, opposite extremes meet. The arrant colonialists and the Chinese critics of Soviet policy appear on the same side of the fence. Could there be a grosser travesty of Marxism?

And what can be said of the crude slander that the Soviet Union and the socialist community have failed to support the struggle of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America? That totally unfounded assertion is disclaimed by the whole history of the Soviet state and socialist system.

COLONIALISM STILL EXISTS

THE assistance the socialist countries—and first and foremost the Soviet Union—render the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America takes the form, above all, of *political support for*

the national liberation movement. In their struggle to end the imperialists' colonial rule and establish their own national states, to safeguard and consolidate their sovereignty and independence, the young states can rely on the unfailing support of the socialist camp.

There are different obstacles blocking the way of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America to freedom. And the creators of those obstacles, the imperialists, are now busy erecting more. They are employing every means in their power—political, military and economic—to ward off the day of the peoples' emancipation.

There is no getting away from the fact that the imperialist world has amassed enormous war capacities and stocks of nuclear missiles.

Imperialism by no means resembles the "paper tiger" which certain short-sighted theorists would have us believe. The tiger has nuclear teeth, and it would be disastrous not to see them.

By contrast, the majority of the young states are sparsely populated, poorly armed and lacking in experience of economic and state affairs. During their centuries-old rule, the colonialists managed to bribe and corrupt certain leaders in those countries. Helped by these treacherous elements, they can pursue the strategem of divide and rule, of setting the peoples at loggerheads, of scheming and contriving, of staging armed coups and political assassinations and in other ways disorganising the life of the young states in order to subjugate them in new ways.

The imperialists have directed their aggressive Nato, Seato and Cento blocs against the peoples who are reaching out for freedom. The strength that is concentrated in the hands of those imperialist blocs hardly needs to be stressed.

Yet some would have it that the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America should rely entirely on their own resources in resisting imperialism. That is dangerous advice. The courage and staunchness shown by the peoples of the East in defence of their national sovereignty have always been a paramount factor. But that alone cannot protect them against imperialist encroachments or safeguard their independence. Still less can it by itself give freedom to the peoples still in colonial slavery.

The support of the socialist countries, and primarily the support of the Soviet Union, is the best guarantee of the independence of the young states.

COLONIALISM OUTLAWED

THE Soviet Union is exerting every effort to have the colonial system outlawed and completely abolished. Among other things, it is using its political prestige to that end in the United Nations Organisation.

At the Fifteenth Session of the U.N. General Assembly in September, 1960, Nikita Khrushchov submitted on behalf of the Soviet government a Declaration on Granting Independence to the Colonial Countries. That document solemnly proclaimed these principles: the immediate granting of complete independence to all colonial countries and to all trust and other dependent territories; the eradication of all strongpoints of colonialism in the form of foreign territorial holdings.

The head of the Soviet government demanded that the principle of sovereignty be applied in practice, and not merely in words, to all peoples of the world without exception. He called for an end to the violence and disregard for basic human rights encountered day after day in the foreign possessions of the colonial powers. Nikita Khrushchov said:

> "The United Nations Organisation is called upon to demand the abolition of colonial rule, if, according to the Charter of that organisation, it is the duty of U.N.O. to reaffirm belief in human rights, the dignity and worth of the individual, the equality of nations, large or small."

That noble initiative taken by the Soviet Union bore good fruit.

One after another the delegates from Asian, African and other states which have won political independence in hard-fought struggle against the colonialists, expressed from the rostrum of the General Assembly their peoples' gratitude to the Soviet Union for placing the question of the complete and final eradication of colonialism before the United Nations. The neutralist states of Asia and Africa supported the basic ideas of the declaration submitted by the Soviet Union.

Practically all the fundamental principles advanced by the Soviet Union were later included in the draft declaration, drawn up by 43 Asian and African countries, on granting independence to the colonial countries and peoples. The General Assembly adopted the declaration by 89 votes. Only the colonial powers refused to vote for it.

If they had their way, those powers would not only refuse to grant independence to the colonies and dependent countries still under their sway, but would even use force to restore the old

regimes in the countries which have gained their national sovereignty.

Fortunately, however, the aggressive schemes of the imperialists are today opposed by the vast economic and military might and the political prestige of the Soviet Union.

Soviet action has had a sobering effect on the imperialists each time they have made an aggressive move against any of the young states. The imperialists know only too well that the Soviet Union will not hesitate to use its military might to curb aggression. Fear of retaliation, fear of Soviet nuclear missile strength, has more than once forced them to draw in their claws.

The history of the 'fifties and 'sixties is not lacking in examples of this:

In 1956 the Soviet Union played a decisive part in halting the aggression against Egypt.

In 1957 the Soviet Union foiled the American imperialists' plans to invade Syria from Turkish territory.

When India liberated her traditional territories of Goa, Diu and Daman from Portuguese subjugation, Lisbon loudly proclaimed that it would not "let the matter stand". Egged on by Nato, Salazar threatened to apply "severe military sanctions". The United States and certain other western powers made no secret of their sympathy with Portugal and their intention to help her. It was trumpeted in Lisbon that warships would be sent to the shores of India. Again the Soviet government came forward. It declared its resolute support for the action of the Indian people. The western powers were forced to abandon their intention without further ado. The warships of Portugal did not stir.

The Soviet government also declared its support for Indonesia's just efforts to liberate West Irian: the imperialists had no choice but to seek a peaceful settlement. The peoples of West Irian and Indonesia were thus reunited by peaceful means.

For many nations, Soviet support is the only sure guarantee that their freedom will be protected and consolidated. The Soviet Union is like a shield protecting them from the imperialist threat that would otherwise surely bear down upon them.

Cuba is a striking example of the powerful effect of Soviet support. The heroism of the Cuban people has won them world-wide acclaim and admiration. With Soviet help they have built a fine modern army. But that does not mean that Cuba could defend her independence singlehanded. She has a population of only seven million people, and is virtually within a stone's throw of the United States. In no time at all the huge forces of the U.S.A. could sweep down on that Island of Freedom.

Despite its hatred for socialist Cuba, Washington has nevertheless had to refrain from using force to crush her revolutionary regime. What has held the United States back? Without a doubt, it is above all the realisation that the Soviet Union, with its colossal military strength, stands guard over Cuba's independence and security.

Naturally, one must not underestimate the significance of such important factors as the solidarity of the anti-imperialist front and the efforts for peace being made by progressive people within the imperialist countries themselves. But it is primarily due to the active support it has received from the Soviet Union that the Cuban Island of Freedom owes its survival so close to the shores of the United States.

By its firm and courageous stand during the Caribbean crisis, the Soviet Union not only saved world peace but also ensured the conditions for Cuba's continued advance to socialism.

Such are the facts. And facts speak louder than words; they have a vitality that cannot be suppressed.

NOT TALK BUT ACTION

THE examples just cited reveal the utter untenability of the contentions that the Soviet Union has lessened its support for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and that its aid is not playing a decisive part in their struggle. As for the critics who are making these allegations, how are they themselves supporting the national liberation movement? They think empty words and irresponsible exhortations to extremist acts are enough. But the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America obviously stand to gain little from that kind of help.

The significance of Soviet support lies in its reality, its concreteness, its practical fulfilment. The fruits are plain for all to see.

As President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana stated during his visit to the Soviet Union in 1961: "Were it not for the existence of the Soviet Union, the movement for freedom from colonial oppression in Africa would have felt the full force of brutal suppression."

And President Nkrumah is not alone in this assessment of the Soviet Union's role. Even leaders openly inclined to the West do not deny the tremendous importance of Soviet support to the peoples' struggle against imperialism.

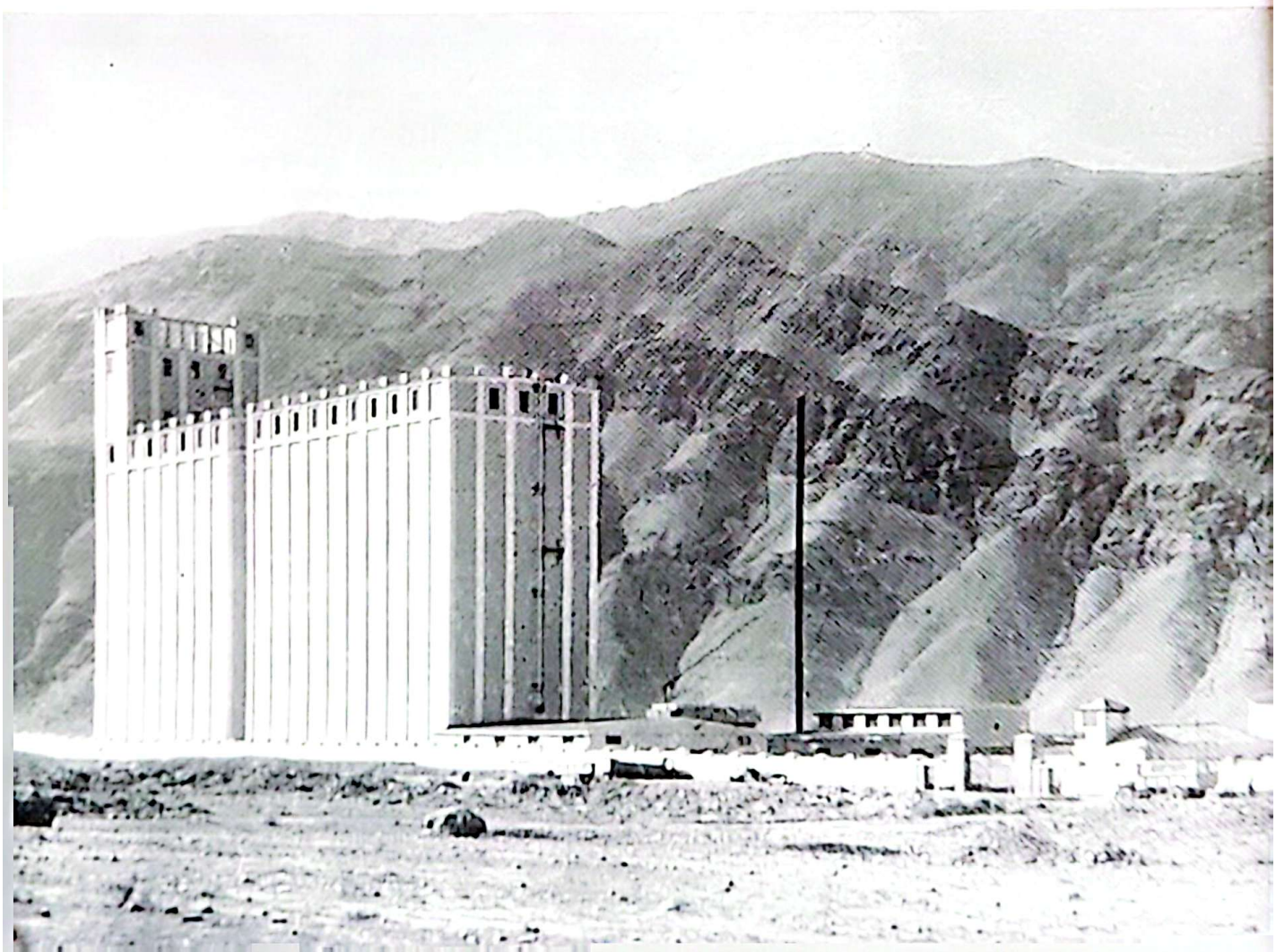
When Tunisia was attacked by the French army, bent on main-

A line of ZIL-157 lorries at the Likhachov Motor Works in Moscow. They are part of a consignment for the Republic of Mali in Africa.

Left: *Egyptian and Soviet workers on the Aswan Dam project cheer its progress.*

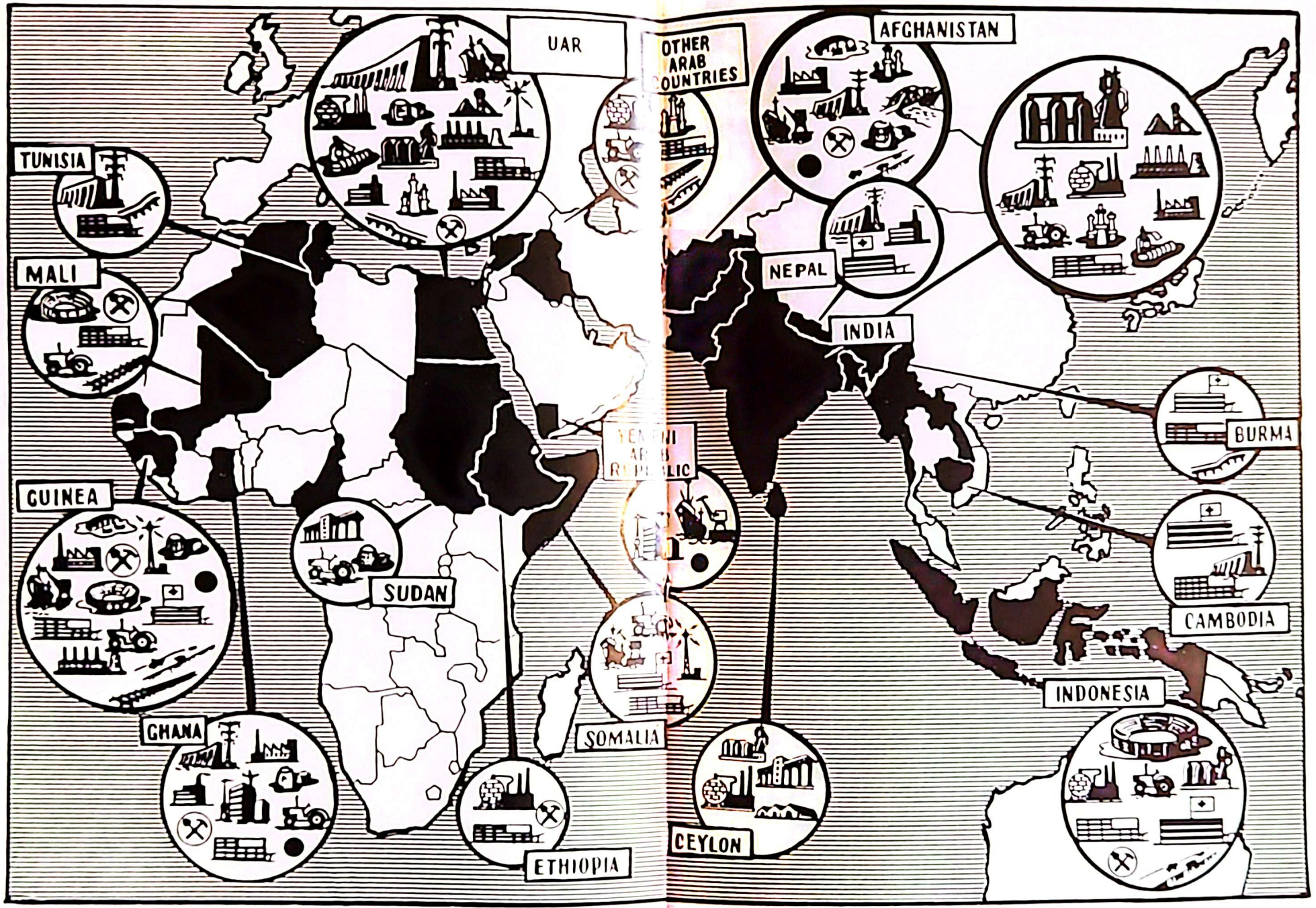
The machine-shop of the Jangelak Motor Repair Plant near Kabul in Afghanistan. It is equipped with Soviet machine tools and fifty Soviet specialists helped in its erection. There is also a foundry, repair shop, metal goods and auto spares manufactory, and an oil and textile machinery department.

A grain elevator built with Soviet technical assistance in Afghanistan.

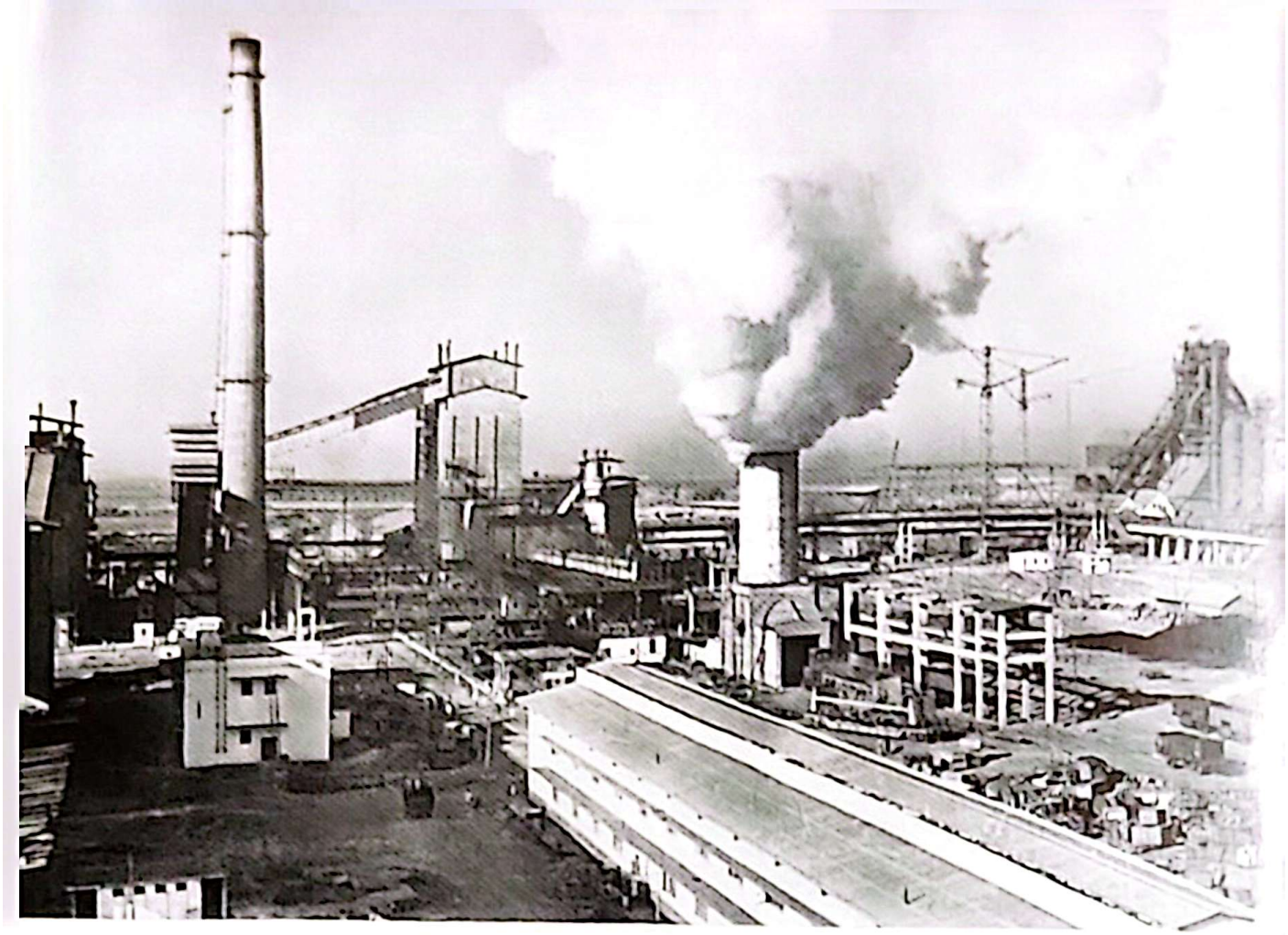


A hospital in Pnompenh, capital of Cambodia—the gift of the people of the Soviet Union.

Lorries and 'Belarus' tractors on the dockside at Riga, Soviet Latvia, being loaded for shipment to Cuba.

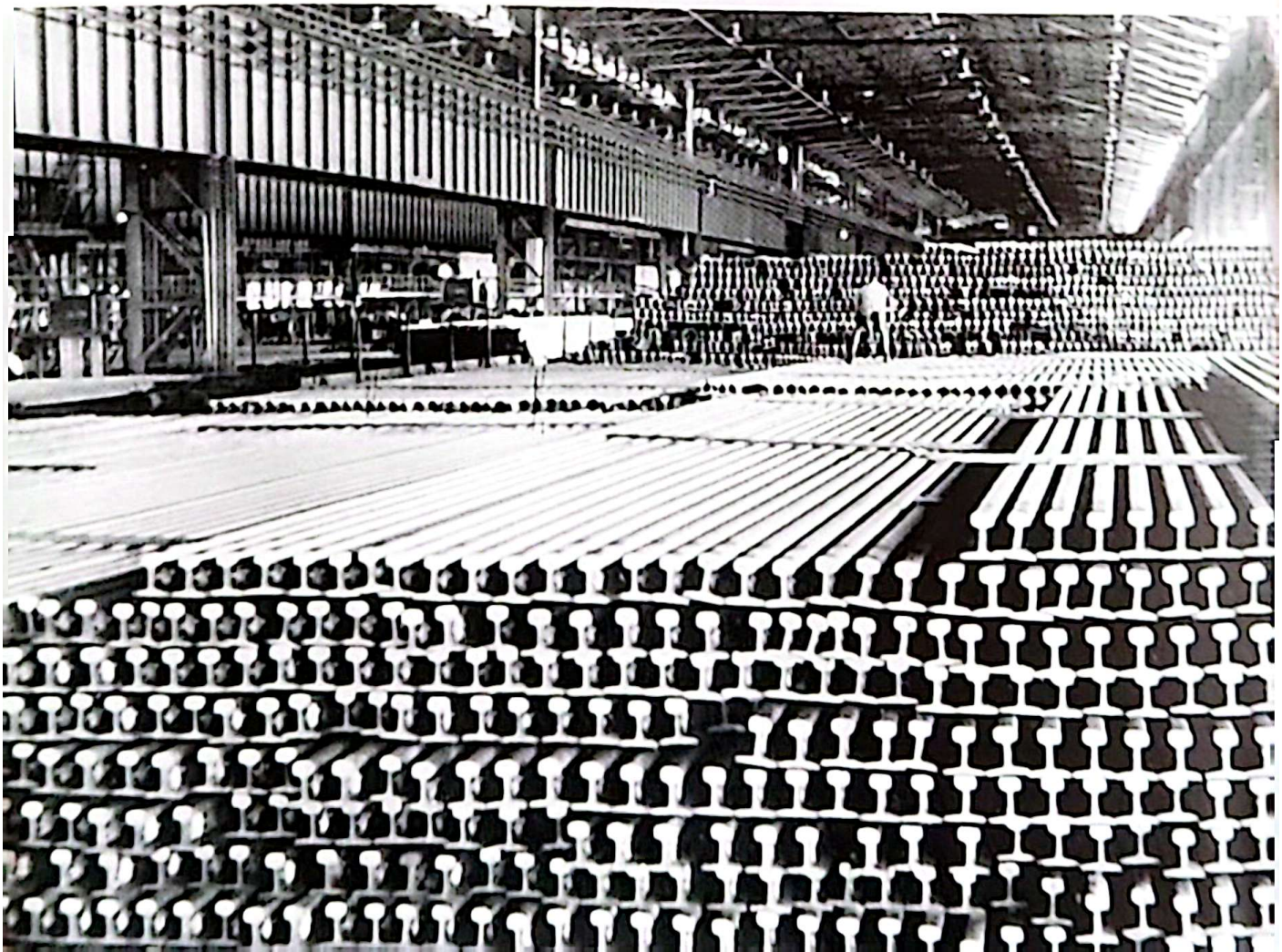


SOVIET AID: Soviet engineers and technicians are helping or will help to build 480 industrial projects and other major installations in the new independent states of Asia and Africa. They include thirty-four plants and shops in the ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgical industries, about thirty engineering and metal-working plants, over twenty chemical plants and oil refineries, more than twenty power plants, twenty building materials works, and forty-three plants for the light and food industries. Roads, ports, schools, stadiums, hospitals, and atomic reactors also feature prominently in Soviet assistance. The above map indicates some of the major projects in Africa and Asia.



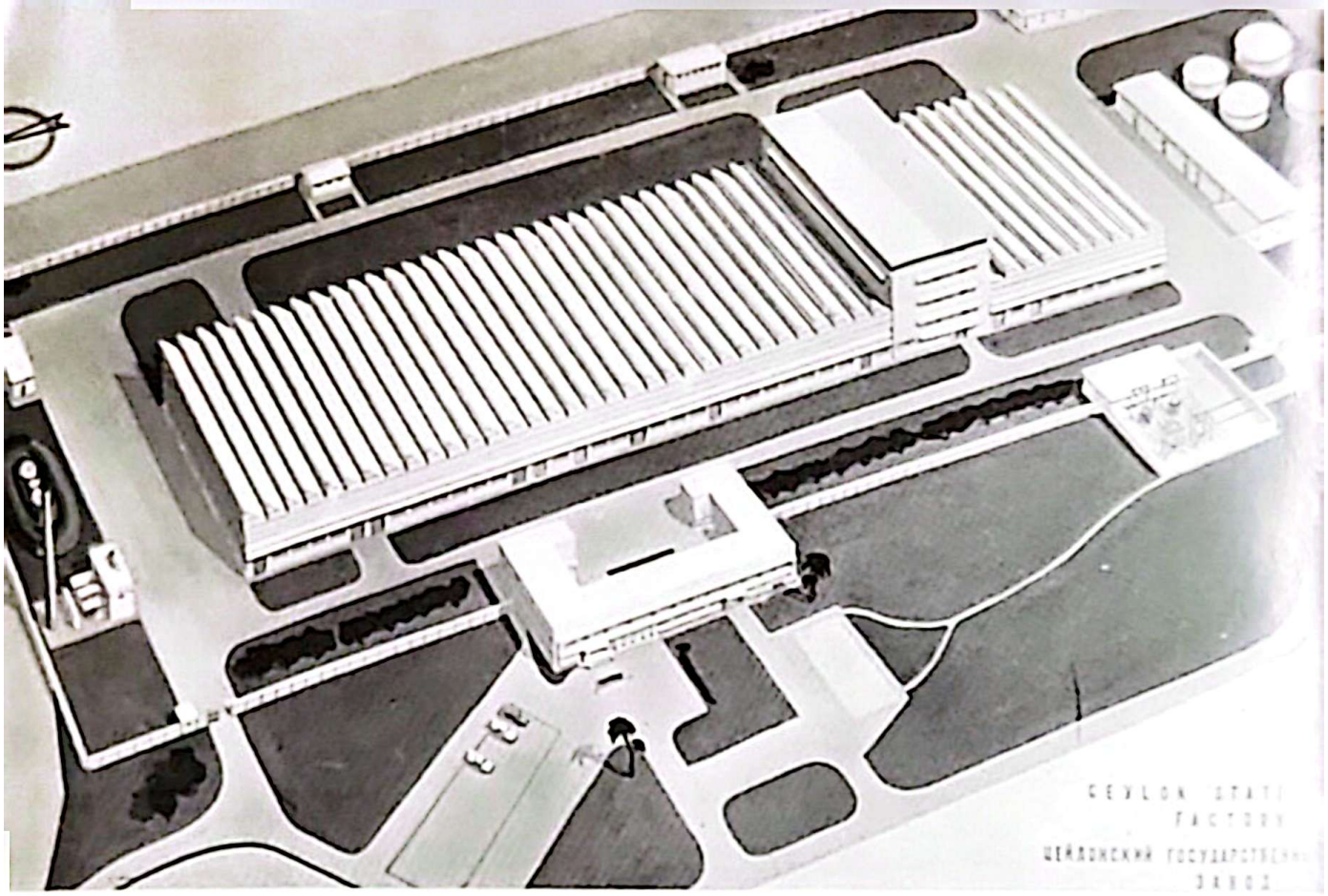
A general view of the Bhilai Steelworks in India, which is of Soviet design and construction. Now producing a million tons of steel a year, it will be expanded to make two and a half million tons.

Much of Bhilai's present output goes into the production of railway lines.



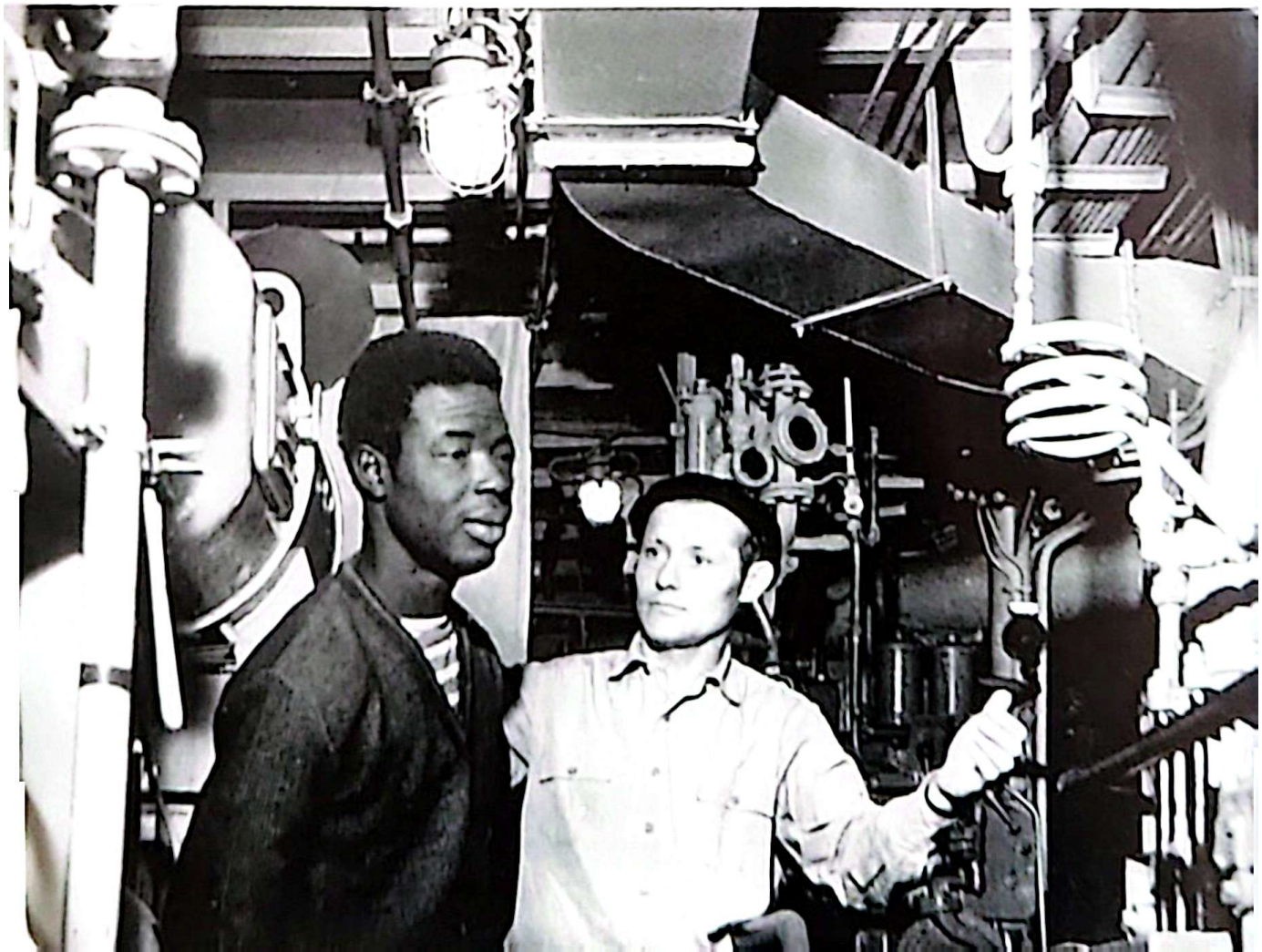
Soviet tractors driven by young Ghanaians trained by Soviet specialists. They are ploughing on a state farm in Adidom, one of four to be established in Ghana with Soviet assistance.

Left: *Lyubov Roshchina, an inspector at Moscow's Electro-Medical Equipment Factory, checks "EI-1" electric pulse generators before shipment to Burma.*



The design for the Ceylon State Tyre Factory, to be built with the assistance of the Soviet Union. It will produce 360,000 tyres a year.

Senior mechanic Victor Dimov instructs George Eihun of Ghana about the mechanism aboard the trawler "Pioneer" in Odessa. This is the first of ten medium-sized refrigerated trawlers being built for Ghana at the Leninskaya Kuznitsa plant in Kiev.



taining their control of the Bizerta naval base, it was to the Soviet government that President Bourguiba appealed; thereby demonstrating that in the Soviet Union he saw a country capable of helping his people and barring the way to the aggressors.

The Soviet Union does not look upon the struggle against imperialism and colonial oppression, or its assistance to the freedom-loving nations as temporary expedients arising from the changing international situation. On the contrary, it is the constant and undeviating course of the Soviet state. In its whole history, the Soviet Union has never failed to come to the aid of any nation fighting for its freedom.

Always and everywhere the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America have felt the helping hand of their Soviet brothers.

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE—THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

IT is claimed by the Chinese critics of Soviet policy that the course of peaceful co-existence adopted by the socialist countries is impeding the peoples' struggle against colonialism. The Soviet government is accused of applying the principle of peaceful co-existence to relations between the colonial oppressors and the oppressed peoples. Nothing could be further from the truth. Neither the Soviet Union nor any other socialist country has ever applied that principle to the peoples' struggle against their oppressors. How could they, when they stand for the *complete* and *immediate* abolition of colonialism.

The socialist community has always supported the struggle of the peoples, and recognises that armed struggle against colonialism is just and warranted. The Soviet people have shown the warmest sympathy for the heroic struggles waged by the peoples of Angola, South Vietnam and Portuguese Guinea. They gave the Algerians active help in their armed struggle. All peoples who take up arms against the rapacious colonialists can count on Soviet help and support.

Explaining the policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchov, first secretary of the party's central committee, has said:

> "There will be wars of liberation as long as imperialism exists, as long as colonialism exists. Those are revolutionary wars. Such wars are not only permissible but also unavoidable, for the colonialists do not willingly grant the peoples independence. Consequently the peoples can only win freedom and independence by struggle, including armed struggle."

There you have a precise statement of the position of the Soviet party and government. Does it sound like the application of the principle of peaceful co-existence to relations between the colonial oppressors and the oppressed!

The critics also assert that the policy of peaceful co-existence in general "paralyses" the national liberation movement, the peoples' struggle against colonialism; they claim that it makes for "social stagnation."

In fact, peaceful co-existence creates the most favourable conditions for the peoples' struggle for national independence.

The struggle for peace and peaceful co-existence weakens the front of imperialism, isolates its most aggressive circles from the masses of the people, and in this way promotes the national liberation movement. The struggle for peace and peaceful co-existence is organically linked with the revolutionary struggle against imperialism. As the Statement of the 1960 Moscow meeting of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties points out:

> "In conditions of peaceful co-existence favourable opportunities are created for extending the class struggle in the capitalist countries and the national liberation movement of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries. In turn, the successes of the revolutionary class struggle and national liberation movement help to strengthen peaceful co-existence."

Is it not a fact that the dissolution of colonialism in recent years and the historic victories of the national liberation movement have been achieved in conditions of peaceful co-existence?

Peaceful co-existence creates the most favourable atmosphere for social progress. And the colonialists know this only too well. That is why they attack the principle of peaceful co-existence so furiously. Realising that a firm peace is the most deadly climate for colonialism, they deliberately intensify the arms race, the cold war and international tension so as to check the process of the downfall of colonialism and create new obstacles to the national independence of the peoples.

Those who oppose peaceful co-existence are in effect abetting the colonialists, whether they want to or not. Such is the inexorable logic of events.

SAD HERITAGE...

IN their efforts to sully the Soviet Union's good reputation in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the leaders of the Communist Party of China also claim that the U.S.S.R. is out to "exploit" the peoples of those continents. This same falsehood is also one of the hackneyed themes of imperialist propaganda. Who but the colonialists shout from the rooftops about "Soviet imperialism?" And now those elements who set themselves up as "true Marxist-Leninists" are taking up the tune!

The aim of Soviet economic aid is to help the young countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to solve the difficult problems before them.

The dissolution of the colonial system and the rapid growth of the young independent states have created a huge demand for funds to build the national economies of those countries, to advance their industrialisation and agriculture. Political independence cannot dispel all the dark shadows of the past, cannot eliminate overnight economic backwardness and dependence on the former metropolitan countries.

Colonialism kept the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America from developing their own economies. It assigned them a specific role: to supply the imperialist powers with raw materials and act as the "world's farmlands." That is why these countries, though inhabited by half the population of the globe, accounted for only about a tenth of the world's total of manufactured goods, a third of its machines and equipment, and 5 per cent of its iron and steel.

Naturally, the peoples of the countries that are seeking real independence and progress are now looking for ways to advance their economy and culture rapidly and overcome their economic dependence on the former metropolitan countries. One such way is through scientific, technical and financial assistance from the highly-developed countries.

The imperialist countries talk of their readiness to extend assistance. But that is just talk; in reality what they usually have in mind is some more subtle and insidious—even if camouflaged—form of colonial exploitation. Speculating on the hardships of the young independent countries and their great need for economic aid, the imperialist monopolies are using that aid to strengthen their positions in the former colonies and dependent countries and keep them in subjugation. United States loans and economic aid always have definite political strings attached. The imperialists are determined to squeeze the maximum profits out of that aid. For every dollar it has invested in the economically underdeveloped

countries, the U.S.A. has taken from them in return two-and-a-half dollars in the form of profits.

...AND HOW TO OVERCOME IT

THE economic aid extended by the socialist countries serves a quite different purpose. In its economic assistance to the less-developed countries, the Soviet Union adheres to the principles of equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. Its chief aim is to help strengthen the national economy of the young states and so consolidate their political independence. As Nikita Khrushchov has explained:

> "Underlying the Soviet Union's economic and technical co-operation with the countries of Asia and Africa is a sincere desire to help those countries in their offensive against backwardness, poverty, disease and illiteracy. . . . Our economic and technical co-operation with the countries of Asia and Africa is the logical continuation of the same kind of fraternal support we have always and consistently given the anti-imperialist liberation movement of the oppressed nations."

One of the distinctive features of Soviet economic aid is that it is directed towards developing the key branches of the economy of the young states. That is particularly important today to the newly independent countries, where the focal point of the national liberation movement has moved to the economic sphere. Moreover, the Soviet Union does not seek any advantages or privileges for itself. The entire output and profits of the establishments built with its aid remain the inalienable property of those countries, which derive the benefit from them.

As the economic might of the Soviet Union grows stronger, so the volume of Soviet aid to other countries increases. That is an inexorable process in keeping with the international principles of friendship and co-operation which prevail in the socialist world. But the Chinese critics of Soviet policy would like to minimise the importance of that aid and depict it as a temporary expedient, trying again and again to show that Soviet aid is one-sided and self-seeking.

However, that tale is also disproved by the facts. The Soviet Union has helped, is now helping or will help in the near future to build 480 industrial establishments and other installations in the newly independent countries.

These are establishments which are of primary importance for creating a foundation of economic independence in the former colonies and dependent countries.

They include 34 works and separate shops in the ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgical industries, more than 30 engineering and metal-working plants, more than 20 chemical mills and oil refineries, more than 20 power plants, 20 building materials works and 43 plants for the light and food industries.

By the beginning of 1963 approximately 120 installations had already been put into operation.

The Soviet Union has provided the liberated countries with some 3,000 million roubles in credits to promote their economic development.

India. A metallurgical giant has been built at Bhilai with Soviet assistance. Its capacity will soon reach 2½ million tons of steel a year.

What is the significance of Bhilai for India? This is a metallurgy centre whose development lays the foundation for her industrialisation and the building-up of her national economy.

With the help of Soviet experts, six oilfields have been discovered in India and two oil refineries are being built. The heavy machinery and mining equipment plants being built in Ranchi and Durgapur respectively, with Soviet technical assistance, will enable India to manufacture her own equipment for key industries.

The plants that have been and are being built in India with Soviet assistance will annually supply 2½ million tons of steel, more than 5,000 million kWh. of electricity, 6 million tons of oil products and other important kinds of industrial output.

United Arab Republic. A new date has been entered in the annals of Egypt's long history—January 9, 1960. This date marked the beginning of the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

The people of the U.A.R. call the Aswan High Dam the miracle of the Nile. Suffice it to recall that 96 per cent of Egypt's territory is desert.

And now the contours of the dam are taking shape in the desert—a dam that will be 17 times greater in volume than the famous Cheops pyramid. When construction is completed the country's farmland will increase by one-third. And a hydro-electric station, one of the biggest in the world, is to be built at the dam with Soviet assistance.

In addition, the Soviet Union is co-operating with the U.A.R. in building some 80 different industrial and other installations.

Indonesia. The Soviet Union is helping with the construction of a metallurgical mill with an annual capacity of 100,000 tons of steel, a superphosphates plant with an output of 100,000 tons a year, and highways on Kalimantan Island.

In Djakarta a hospital is being built and a sports complex has been completed. It includes a stadium seating 100,000. Geological

prospecting and surveying work is under way on the River Asahan for the hydro-electric station to be built there.

Yemen. The port of Hodeida has been built with Soviet aid. This is the country's first modern deep-water sea port. When the revolution took place and the republic was proclaimed, the imperialists blockaded the country. The port of Hodeida was the only gateway through which the young republic received aid from friendly countries.

Afghanistan. A motor repair factory has been built, as well as port installations at Kyzyl-Kala, eight oil bases, a hydro-electric station and a mechanised bakery in Kabul which ensures uninterrupted supplies of flour and bread to the population of the capital. In addition, the Kabul central airfield has been made operational. The 43½ mile Jalalabad irrigation canal is under construction, as well as two hydro-electric stations and a number of highways.

Ceylon. The Soviet Union is helping to build a metallurgical mill and a motor-tyre and inner-tube plant. Work to clear the jungle for sugar cane plantations is nearing completion.

Nepal. The Soviet Union is helping to build a hydro-electric station, a sugar refinery and a tobacco plant. A hospital has already been built.

Ghana. A machinery plant and a gold refinery are to be built, as well as a production complex for the fishing industry, a hydro-electric station, a cotton textile mill and a plant producing large reinforced concrete structural units. An atomic research reactor is under construction. The republic is also being helped to carry out prospecting operations and in setting up state farms.

Guinea. Reconstruction of the Conakry airfield has been completed, as has the construction of a radio station, a refrigerator plant and the first section of a polytechnical institute. Construction is in progress of a large canned foods plant and saw mill, and of a hotel and stadium in Conakry. Soviet geologists are also helping Guinea.

Mali. Prospecting is in full progress for gold, diamonds, oil and raw materials for the cement industry. The Soviet Union will help to build a cement mill and to develop agriculture. President Modibo Keita has noted that all the young African countries fighting for their political independence and subsequently for their economic independence have always enjoyed the disinterested aid and great solidarity of the Soviet Union.

Major industrial and other installations have been built or are under construction in Burma, Cambodia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ethiopia and other countries.

Soviet engineers and technicians are working today with great dedication in the new independent countries that are rising on the

ruins of the colonial system. They are urged on by the spirit of brotherhood, unselfish friendship and mutual assistance that the Soviet people have always felt for the emergent states of Asia and Africa.

For many countries, Soviet economic co-operation has begun to play a decisive role in the development of their national industries. Soviet credits have made possible the greater part of their capital investments and also the inflow of foreign currency essential for that purpose. Soviet credits constitute as much as 15 per cent of Indonesia's state capital investments between 1961 and 1968, and about 16 per cent of India's capital investments between 1961 and 1966. Soviet aid accounted for more than a third of Afghanistan's capital investments in its first five-year plan (1956-61).

Soviet credits are granted at the low annual rate of interest of 2½ to 3 per cent, and repayments begin, as a rule, one year after the delivery of the equipment. In comparison, it is customary for the western powers to exact 5 to 6 per cent annual interest on their loans.

Another characteristic feature of Soviet aid is the fact that it does not stop at the delivery of equipment or at help in building projects. True to the spirit of brotherly solidarity, the Soviet Union also gives those countries every assistance in training their own specialists and skilled workers. Its specialists are glad to share their experience and hand on their know-how to their colleagues in the Asian and African countries. The establishments built with Soviet aid have become schools for raising the qualifications of the workers and technicians of those countries working on the projects.

HEARTENING PROSPECTS

LOOKING a little ahead, it is clear to see that fulfilment of the economic development tasks set in the Soviet Communist Party's programme will greatly strengthen the country's material and technical basis within the short space of 20 years. With its vast resources, increasing productive forces and planned economy, the Soviet Union will far outstrip the most highly-developed capitalist countries in technical level.

As its economic might grows, the Soviet Union will be in a position steadily to increase its help to the countries in need of developing their own industrial basis.

This aspect of Soviet economic co-operation with the less-developed countries was particularly stressed by Nikita Khrushchov

in a speech at a Soviet-Hungarian friendship meeting held in Moscow in July 1963, and the head of the Soviet government said:

> "We all know that ever since its foundation the Soviet state has been giving extensive political and other kinds of support to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America who are fighting against colonial oppression. . . . And today, too, we more than ever before see it as our task to extend all-round support through every channel to the peoples fighting against national dependence and oppression."

DISARMAMENT—THE CORRECT ROAD TO PROGRESS

THE Soviet Union's determined efforts to prevent another world war and assure lasting peace have the highest significance for the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The success of those efforts would give the peoples the opportunity to apply for progressive, constructive purposes the enormous resources still being used for defence.

General disarmament could benefit not only the great powers, but also the less-developed countries embarking on the work of national regeneration. Disarmament would make it possible to increase foreign aid to the young states. If only a fifth of the funds now being spent on arms throughout the world were channelled to peaceful purposes, that would be sufficient to build 96 iron and steel plants like the Indian Bhilai mills or 17 Aswan dams. That money would serve to create 30 to 40 power and industrial centres in the river basins of Asia and Africa.

Speaking at the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace, Nikita Khrushchov pointed out that if the Soviet disarmament proposals were adopted, or even 8 to 10 per cent of the present military outlay was channelled to aid for the less-developed countries, that would make it possible within the space of 20 years to do away with hunger, disease and illiteracy all over the world.

> **In that period the young states could overcome their economic backwardness and approach the industrial level of countries like Britain and France.**

* * *

No one will succeed in undermining the confidence and deep sympathy with which the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America regard the Soviet Union. Their friendship has passed the test of life. Its effectiveness has been proved time and time again.

The alliance between the socialist countries and the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America will grow from strength to strength. And all the progressive forces of the world are interested in seeing that alliance strengthened. Only in the imperialists does it arouse hatred; but that fact is in itself the best proof of the significant role of the alliance in the advance of mankind. The future belongs to that alliance.

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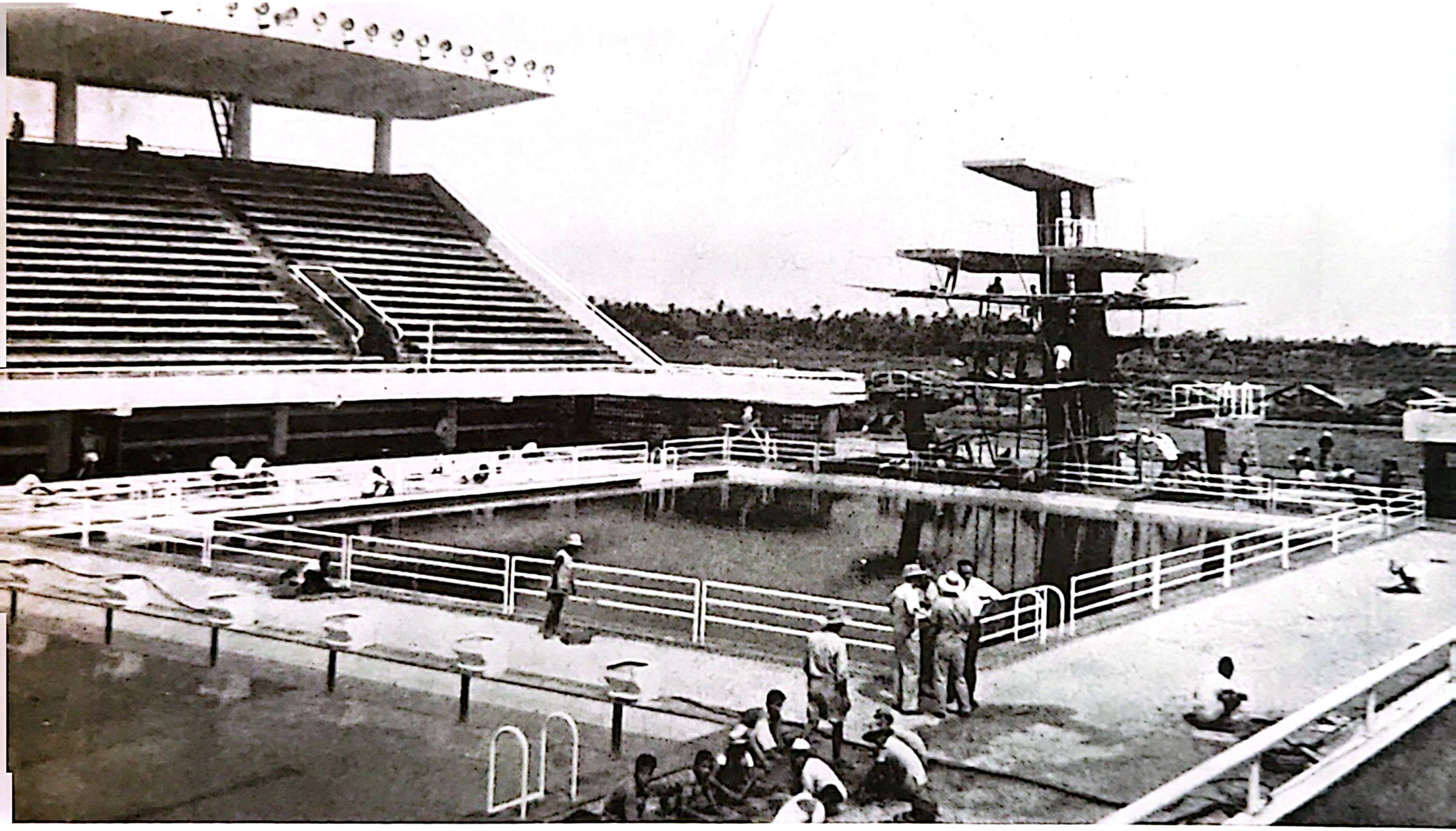

Djakarta, Indonesia, has a stadium with every facility for many sports activities, built with the assistance of the Soviet Union. Here is the diving pool and large swimming pool under construction.